



10

The grieuances of the Owners and Masters of shipping trading to the Southwards, against the patent for Dungenesse lights.

*What was con-
ced unto.*

It is true that some of vs gaue consent to the setting vp of a light at *Dungenesse*: which was intended shold haue bin a faire stone-tower, wherein to haue kept a blazing fire light: and for the charge of building and maintenance thereof, consent was likewise giuen to pay a pennie vpon the tunne of all shippes that should take benefit thereby; and this penie to be paid, part by the Owner and part by the Merchant, at the retурne of the shippes from their voyages, and not before.

*The Patentee a-
buse of the consent:
in erecting an unfit
light, and ill keep-
ing thereof.*

But the Patentee hath abused this consent: for in stead of a stone tower, he hath erected sleight structures of 3 or 4 masts: and on the top thereof keepes onely a candle light, which is nothing fit for that place, for that we cannot haue any benefit thereby, because it cannot be seene, till ships come very neare it: and also that candle light is so euilly kept, that it is suffered in many darke nights to go out, to the often endangering of our ships and mens liues.

*The Patentee re-
ceiñeth as much a-
gaine, as was con-
ced unto, and re-
ceiñeth it of those
that haue no benefit
by the light.*

And in stead of a pennie vpon the tunne to be paid at our ships retурnes the Patentee hath inserted a pennie out, and a pennie in, which is two pence vpon the tunne, every voyage. VVhich two pence were refusing at first to pay, he procured his Maiesties letter to the Custome-house, to haue our entries refused, and our Coquets stayed vntill payment were made of the said two pence vpon the tunne. And also he receiñeth the like imposition of all ships that bring salt, wines, or oyles out of the Low Countries, although they come not neare the said lights by 18 or 20 miles, nor can haue any benefit thereby.

*What we now
desire.*

VVee doe therefore humbly pray this honorable Assembly to prouide that a faire tower may be built, wherein may be kept a blazing fire-light, at the charge of a pennie vpon the tunne, to be payd part by the Owner, and part by the Merchant, at the retурne of our shippes: or otherwise altogether to extinguish the light: for much better were it to haue none, then such a one, by which we can haue no benefit, but are often endangered to lose both our ships, goods and liues.